

## Regular Meeting

May 14, 2019

The regular meeting of the Millcreek Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman John Groh in the Assembly Room of the Millcreek Township Municipal Building. Present were Mark Zaksheske, John Morgan, John Groh, James Bock, Mark Shaw, Esq., Matthew Puz, Jr., Anne Sokol, P.E., Julie Maggio, Gary Snyder, Hannah French and Sheryl Williams. Matthew Waldinger was absent.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Mr. Groh reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded by WQLN and is broadcast on Spectrum and YouTube.com with closed captioning available.

Mr. Groh called for public comment on agenda items other than development or rezoning application hearings. No public comment was offered.

On separate motions by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock, it was carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2019 Special Public Meeting and April 23, 2019 Regular Meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve payment of the General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,018,880.95, and Sewer Revenue Fund bills in the amount of \$734,405.04.

Public Works Director Gary Snyder reported that bids were solicited and received for removal of two trees at 4022 Feidler Drive, as follows: J. Thomas Tree Service - \$1995.00, Leopold Tree Service - \$1700.00, and Dibble Tree Service - \$1650.00. On recommendation of Mr. Snyder, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to award the contract to Dibble Tree Service for \$1650.00.

Public Works Director Gary Snyder reported that bids were solicited and received for removal of seven trees in the Brentwood Hills Subdivision, as follows: J. Thomas Tree Service - \$1770.00, Leopold Tree Service - \$1000.00, and Dibble Tree Service - \$1550.00. On recommendation of Mr. Snyder, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to award the contract to Leopold Tree Service for \$1000.00.

Mr. Groh report that bids were solicited and received by Parks and Recreation Director Ashley Marsteller for a security camera system for the Millcreek Golf and Learning Center, as follows: Whitetail Electronics - \$3580.76, New Sentry - \$6855.00, Wilkins – No Bid, Kubinski Business - \$7890.00. On recommendation of Ms. Marsteller, it was moved by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to award the contract to Whitetail Electronics for \$3580.76.

On recommendation of Township Engineer Anne Sokol, P.E. and the Planning and Development Department, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to contract Savage Tribe LLC to install GIS software updates for the sanitary sewer GIS, at an hourly rate of \$150.00, not to exceed \$1200.00, to be funded by the Sewer Revenue Fund.

Ms. Sokol reported that proposals were solicited but none received for Engineering Services for a Stormwater Overflow Basin. She stated that an addendum is being prepared for next year, and Solicitor Mark Shaw added that the schedule appeared to be too aggressive, but it is feasible to begin construction next spring.

On recommendation of Township Engineer Anne Sokol, P.E. and the Planning and Development Department, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to award the contract to Wood Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions for Phase One of the

Stormwater Program Study in the amount of \$91,395.00, and to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract, most of which will be funded by grants assembled by the County Department of Planning & Economic Development, pending final review and recommendation by the Solicitor.

Bids were solicited and received by Chief Scott Heidt for the sale of two Blaser/SIG 308 caliber Rifles as follows: Keystone Armory - \$1750 each, Armando's Gun Shop - \$1025.00 and \$1050.00, Presque Isle Gun Shop – No Bid, and Gornflo Company – No Bid. On recommendation of Chief Heidt, it was moved by Mr. Bock, seconded by Mr. Morgan and carried by unanimous roll call vote to sell the rifles to Keystone Armory for \$1750.00 each.

On recommendation of Public Works Director Gary Snyder, it was moved by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Morgan and carried by unanimous roll call vote to authorize the sale of two used 1994 White GMC Salt Spreaders for \$1999.00 and \$1501.00, and a used air compressor for \$250.00 for a total of \$3,750.00 to Brian Klinginsmith.

A Public Hearing was held on two Petitions Requesting a Change in Zoning Classification:

**ROBERT W. SESLER for property located at 1647 West Gore Road, now Zoned R-1 Single Family Residential, to be changed to R-2 Low Density Residential. Township Index 724-046, County Index 33-120-542-5.**

Assistant Zoning and Development Officer Julie Maggio reported that on April 2, 2019, the Planning Commission recommended approval, deeming it to be consistent with the Millcreek Township Comprehensive Plan, the Erie County Planning Department stated it was generally consistent with the Erie County Comprehensive Plan, the Zoning Office recommended the plan, and the Future Use Land Plan designates the area for Low to Moderate Density Residential. Mr. Morgan asked if there were any comments at the Planning Commission regarding the petition, to which Ms. Maggio replied no.

Robert Sesler, 3030 Loveland Avenue, stated that there is no longer a stigma on rental properties and that people want modern housing. He is in agreement with the Comprehensive Plan and feels that community involvement with renters is good. Mr. Morgan asked for confirmation that residential townhomes are planned and not Section 8 housing, to which Mr. Sesler replied yes. Mr. Groh stated this is a rezoning petition only. No one else spoke in favor of or in opposition to the petition.

It was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve a Petition Requesting a Zoning Classification for ROBERT W. SESLER for property located at 1647 West Gore Road, now Zoned R-1 Single Family Residential, to be changed to R-2 Low Density Residential.

**ROBERT W. SESLER for property located at 4042 and 4058 West Ridge Road, now zoned C-2 General Commercial, approximately 4.01 acres of the property to be changed to R-4 High Density Residential. Township Indices 406-012, 406-013. County Indices 33-44-229-38 and 33-44-229-39.**

Assistant Zoning and Development Officer Julie Maggio reported that on April 2, 2019, the Planning Commission recommended approval, the Zoning Department recommended approval saying it is generally consistent with the Millcreek Township Comprehensive Plan, the Erie County Planning Department stated it was generally consistent with the Erie County Comprehensive Plan, and the Future Use Land Plan designates the area for Corridor Mixed Use.

Robert Sesler, 3030 Loveland Avenue, stated he is asking for a modification to expand rental housing along major corridors, and suggested that bringing rental housing to

more diversified commercial development areas will help to build the customer base to support these retail areas. He suggested that updating the zoning would encourage more commercial development, and assured the Board that his projects are expensive and will be done properly. Regarding the area's stormwater issues, he reported that he will bring the water to the north and has met with PennDOT, who stated they are taking care of cleaning out low drainage areas and catch basins.

Kathleen Aloiz, 4114 W. Ridge Road, who lives next to Mr. Sesler's offices, presented the Board with photos showing a stormwater problem with flooding on her property despite having the drains cleaned. She stated there is nowhere for the water to go, and also expressed concern regarding a school bus stop across the street where two accidents have occurred. She is opposed to the rezoning due to safety concerns for small children and deer crossing in the back of neighborhood properties, wetlands issues and a total loss of privacy if a driveway to the development is constructed.

Tom Estock, 2120 and 2130 Colonial Avenue, stated that he has a business directly north of Mr. Sesler's offices and had to purchase flood insurance last year due to the constant flooding. He reported that the storm sewer at the end of his road "boils out" consistently, runs down the Erie Canal into his property and floods it. He stated that he has received no help from the township. Mr. Estock said a study was done 8-9 years ago which showed that much of his property is in a floodplain area, which probably begins at the railroad tracks and is preventing water from getting to the lake. Mr. Morgan responded that municipalities do not have the authority to force railroads to update their undersized underground pipes.

Mr. Estock stated that at the last Planning Commission meeting, the general consensus was that most people would rather see more Commercial Industrial properties rather than Residential. He emphasized that the flooding problem should be addressed first before adding more buildings.

Carol Johnson, 4126 W. Ridge Road, stated her home is on 2 acres of secluded land, and is in opposition to the rezoning because she feels that apartments would not fit in this area, and has concerns regarding traffic and increased lighting in the area. She also experiences flooding problems in both the front and back of her property, and reported that her deck was washed out.

August "Gus" Picardo, 4020 W. Ridge Road, stated that he owns three homes east of Mr. Sesler's property and 6 acres behind to the north. He reported that those 6 acres of land are already being flooded from the railroad, and has concerns if Mr. Sesler plans to bring his water north toward his property. He is opposed to the rezoning because of existing water and safety issues, and feels that commercial property values of the surrounding properties will decrease. Mr. Picardo also emphasized that all of the surrounding property owners are opposed to the rezoning.

Veronica Rexford, 4124 W. Ridge Road, reported that Mr. Sesler does not currently own the property in question. She stated that the existing driveway has excessive grading to the west which directs water toward the neighboring property. She also expressed concern that if the water near the railroad is unmanageable now, it will be even more unmanageable if the property is developed in the future.

Ms. Aloiz added that an additional driveway will flood her home.

Mr. Groh stated that this is a rezoning hearing, and asked Ms. Maggio if Mr. Sesler owns the property, to which she replied there are articles of agreement. Mr. Groh asked if a sketch plan was submitted along with the rezoning petition, to which Ms.

Maggio replied yes, a small sketch plan, and similar comments and concerns had been raised at the Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Morgan asked if there was any additional testimony at the Planning Commission meeting, to which Ms. Maggio replied that the same residents who spoke today expressed the same concerns at the Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Picardo stated that there were members of the Planning Commission who did not want to see the rezoning approved for the same reasons. Ms. Maggio reported the petition originally failed on the first vote, but after further discussion, the motion passed 3-2.

Mr. Sesler opined that the comments regarding flooding were exaggerated, and that the lighting for the proposed development would not be intrusive.

Mr. Estock disagreed with Mr. Sesler's comments regarding exaggerated flooding and invited Mr. Sesler to come to his property when flooding is occurring to observe him pumping water over the railroad tracks.

Ms. Rexford asked Mr. Sesler how many feet of frontage are between the existing driveway and the neighbor's property line, stating that she thinks there is not enough available frontage to create an adequate driveway. Mr. Groh intervened to say that this type of questioning should be reserved for the land development phase of the plan. Mr. Morgan further added that the Board cannot compel Mr. Sesler to answer Ms. Rexford's question. He stressed that regardless of how the property is developed, a multi-family development adjacent to a residential property would have the same setback requirements, and other concerns such as flooding and traffic would be addressed in the same manner.

Mr. Groh added that under the current Comprehensive Plan, Mr. Sesler's rezoning proposal is consistent. He asked Zoning and Development Officer Matthew Puz to comment on what the prior Comprehensive Plan (2002) called for, to which he replied Industrial zoning in that area.

Mr. Morgan stated that he understands the residents' concerns, and they can be addressed during the land development portion of the application. He stands behind the Township's Comprehensive Plan and explained that locating multi-family use developments along major highways is a more appropriate use than along low-volume roads and established subdivisions. No one else spoke either in favor of or in opposition to the petition.

Mr. Morgan motioned to approve the rezoning petition for 4042 and 4058 West Ridge Road. Mr. Bock sympathized with the residents, and reiterated that the Board would still have the same concerns whether being rezoned industrial commercial or R-4 rezoning. Mr. Bock seconded the motion, and it carried 2-1, with Mr. Groh voting no.

Ms. Maggio explained that there was an error reported in the Zoning Ordinance regarding the density requirements in R-2 districts, thus requiring an ordinance amendment. On recommendation of Solicitor Mark Shaw, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to enact Ordinance 2019-6; An Ordinance of the Township of Millcreek, Erie County, Pennsylvania, amending the lot, yard and height zoning restrictions for R-2 Residential Zoning Districts.

Mr. Groh announced that the following new or amended ordinances are currently under review: Sign Ordinance Amendment, Mall Zoning Ordinance Amendment, and Debt Ordinance.

On motion by Mr. Bock, seconded by Mr. Morgan, it was carried by unanimous roll call vote to adopt Resolution 2019-R-25; A Resolution pursuant to Resolution 2015-R-20 and the Municipal Records Manual to approve proposed disposition of certain Township records. This authorizes disposal of police DashCam videos after the mandatory 180 days from May 14, 2019 – May 28, 2019 that have reached the end of their retention period.

Township Engineer Anne Sokol reported that the Township has requested CDBG funding in the amount of \$244,561.00 for the construction of ramps and accessible curbs, which are currently under review and being advertised. On motion by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock, it was carried by unanimous roll call vote to adopt Resolution 2019-R-26; A Resolution Approving Millcreek Township's FY 2019 Action Plan Requesting CDBG Financial Assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ben Speggen, Director of Operations, The Jefferson Educational Society, 415 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street, gave a brief presentation on the many activities and opportunities the JES provides, including Jefferson Essays, Heritage Tourism, studying racial disparities within the Erie community, the Dinner Series and the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy (open to Millcreek residents) which has over 100 alumni, ages 25-45. Mr. Speggen requested continued support from the Township in partnering with JES for the fifth year to collaborate and make application for ECGRA's Multi-Municipal Grants.

It was moved by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Bock to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Jefferson Educational Society and Millcreek Township to apply for ECGRA's Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grants, and to authorize the Chairman to sign. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Solicitor Mark Shaw explained that the Millcreek Police Department partners with Erie County Department of Health to ensure local retail establishments sell tobacco products in compliance with the laws, and an amendment to the current contract in the amount of \$630.00 is needed to conduct additional compliance checks. On recommendation of Mr. Shaw, it was moved by Mr. Bock, seconded by Mr. Morgan and carried by unanimous roll vote to approve an Amendment to the Agreement Between the Erie County Department of Health and Millcreek Police Department.

Mr. Shaw reported that the Township received a DCNR grant for Scott Park which requires certain changes in the Scott Park Deed, such as adding a legal description and required restrictions as a result of receiving grant funds. On recommendation of Mr. Shaw, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve the Scott Park Corrective Deed, and to authorize the Chairman to sign.

Treasurer Mark Zaksheske explained that by entering into a three-year commitment with Highmark, administrative fees will be waived for one year. On recommendation of Treasurer Mark Zaksheske, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock, and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve the Highmark Loyalty Renewal Agreement.

Mr. Zaksheske reported that the BAI Flexible Spending Plan agreement needs to be amended to reflect the 2019 limit change from \$2600 to \$2700. On recommendation of Mr. Zaksheske, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock, and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve the Adoption Agreement with the Millcreek Township Flexible Spending Plan.

Solicitor Mark Shaw explained that in order to perform necessary testing for a possible stormwater overflow basin in the West 28<sup>th</sup> Street area, the Township needs to have permission to access the site where the retention basin is being proposed. On recommendation of Mr. Shaw, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock, and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve the NLA II Real Estate Site Access Agreement.

Mr. Groh reported that Erie County Council and Erie City approached local municipalities to request funding for a Census Coordinator to ensure that all citizens are properly counted in the 2020 U.S. Census, and explained that ECGRA will provide matching grant funds. It was moved by Mr. Groh that the Township contribute \$5000, to be matched by ECGRA, toward the funding of a County-wide Census Coordinator. The motion failed as there was no second. Mr. Groh called for another motion, but there was none. County Councilwoman Kathy Fatica further explained that if one person is not counted in a municipality, \$2,300 could potentially be lost in state and federal funds for that municipality.

On recommendation of Township Engineer Anne Sokol, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock, and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve a Road Use Agreement for Arden Road for the developer of Grouse Hollow Subdivision to haul approximately 80 truckloads of excess waste material from the site.

On recommendation of Ms. Sokol, it was moved by Mr. Bock, seconded by Mr. Morgan and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve a financial security release request for First Niagara Check #2736 in the amount of \$1,066.00 for Road Repair at 2714 Loveland by Reeves Plumbing, as the work has been satisfactorily completed and inspected.

On recommendation of Township Engineer Anne Sokol, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock, and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve a Stormwater Maintenance Plan and Agreement for Villa Maria Academy Tennis Courts – Erie Catholic Preparatory School, Developer.

On recommendation of Township Engineer Anne Sokol, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock, and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve a Sidewalk Deferral Agreement Request for 5912 Pilgrim Road – Ronald J. and Susan Haener, Developer, as there are no sidewalks in the area.

Assistant Zoning and Development Officer Julie Maggio presented the April Building Construction Report as follows, which is available on the Township website and also in the Zoning Office:

<u>April 2019:</u>	Total Residential Structures	\$ 2,017,100.00
	Total Non-residential Structures	<u>1,145,973.00</u>
		<b>\$ 3,163,073.00</b>
	Zoning Permits Issued	37
	Zoning Permit Fees	<b>\$ 9,050.00</b>

On recommendation of Human Resource Manager Diane Lyons, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock, and carried by unanimous roll call vote to approve Matthew Flak as a full time Public Safety/Public Works Dispatcher at an hourly rate of \$18.83, effective May 22, 2019.

On recommendation of Parks and Recreation Director Ashley Marsteller, it was moved by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bock, and carried by a 2-1 vote, with Mr. Morgan voting no, to approve a Summer Season Employee Rate Change Request, with new hourly rates to be \$8.00 for the first season, \$9.00 for the second season, and \$10.00 for the third season.

On recommendation of Parks and Recreation Director Ashley Marsteller, it was moved by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bock, and carried by a 2-1 vote, with Mr. Morgan voting no, to approve the following part time Summer Season Employees:

PARKS MAINTENANCE	POSITION	HOURLY RATE
Josh Puda	Summer Maintenance	\$10.00 (3 <sup>rd</sup> season rate)
Garrett Clark	Summer Maintenance	\$10.00 (3 <sup>rd</sup> season rate)
Sean Marsden	Summer Maintenance	\$ 9.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> season rate)
Steve Tome	Summer Maintenance.	\$10.00 (3 <sup>rd</sup> season rate)

PARKS MAINTENANCE	POSITION	HOURLY RATE
Ryan Houser	Summer Maintenance	\$ 8.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> season rate)
Luigi Yates	Summer Maintenance	\$10.00 (3 <sup>rd</sup> season rate)

GOLF COURSE CLUB HOUSE	POSITION	HOURLY RATE
Ryan Bickle	Clubhouse Attendant/Golf Instructor	\$12.00
Sawyer Farbotnik	Clubhouse Attendant	\$ 7.65
Sydney Farbotnik	Clubhouse Attendant	\$ 7.65
Lia Macek	Clubhouse Attendant	\$ 7.65
GOLF COURSE CLUB HOUSE	POSITION	HOURLY RATE
Anjalena Bucci	Clubhouse Attendant	\$ 7.65
Norman Tufts	Adult Clubhouse Attendant/ Ext. Seasonal Help	\$10.00
Maren Sobin	Clubhouse Attendant	\$ 7.65
Emily Piotrowski	Clubhouse Attendant	\$ 7.65
Jeffery Bolan	Clubhouse Attendant	\$ 7.65
Barry Reichel	Adult Clubhouse/Ext. Seasonal Help	\$10.00
MILLCREEK GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE	POSITION	HOURLY RATE
Richard Johannesmeyer	MGLC Adult Maintenance	\$10.00

Originally tabled from the April 23, 2019 meeting, on recommendation by Ms. Lyons, it was moved by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by 2-0 roll call vote to hire Jacob Chimera as Traffic & Electrical Summer Help at \$10.00/hour from May 6 – August 30, 2019. Mr. Morgan abstained from voting, stating that he is a relative to the employee by marriage.

On recommendation by Ms. Lyons, it was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bock and carried by unanimous roll call vote to hire Ian Steff as Building Maintenance Summer Help at \$7.65/hour from May 13 – August 30, 2019.

Mr. Groh reported that the Board met in Executive Session with Solicitor Mark Shaw on April 25, 2019, and on May 2 and 9, 2019 to discuss legal matters.

It was moved by Mr. Bock and seconded by Mr. Morgan to authorize Mr. Bock and Mr. Shaw to attend the ECATO Scholarship Dinner on May 23, 2019 at a total cost of \$52.00. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

On recommendation of Chief Scott Heidt, it was moved by Mr. Bock and seconded by Mr. Groh to approve a wage scale increase for permanent part-time dispatchers as follows: Training - \$12.00/hr., 0-1 Years - \$13.00/hr., 1-5 Years - \$15.00/hr., 6+ Years – COLA based on CPI used for pension, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> each year, and to increase wages to \$16.00/hr. for the following: M. Parker, J. Sorge, A. Kilmer and S. Baer. Motion carried by 2-1 roll call vote, with Mr. Morgan voting no.

Student Ambassador Hannah French announced that students are in the midst of Advanced Placement (AP) testing, Prom is June 1<sup>st</sup> and Graduation is June 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Groh thanked both Student Ambassadors for their service to the Board and wished them well in their future endeavors. Open Records Officer Sheryl Williams reported that during the month of April, two Right-to-Know requests were received and granted, requiring two hours of response preparation time.

Shona Eakin, CEO of Voices for Independence (VFI), 1432 Wilkins Road, reported that more than half of her staff use EMTA bus service, and feels that the Board's decision to cut funding to EMTA was made because of a lack understanding of the impact it would have on bus service and a also due to a lack of communication. She claims that the number of bus routes will be reduced from 16 to 6 in the VFI area, which will affect LIFT Service. She noted that Boscov's at the Millcreek Mall employs over 18 employees who use bus service, and has added extra bus stops there. She asked the Board to please reconsider their decision. Mr. Morgan responded that he did reach out to EMTA Director Chris Gerhart to verify if routes would be cut and was told that there would be no drastic impact to Millcreek Township.

Jeremy Peterson, CEO of EMTA, reported that if local matching funds are reduced, the routes will have to be reevaluated, but stated that EMTA intends to keep the current routes and no changes in bus routes will be made this year. Mr. Morgan responded that \$18,000 is only .01% of EMTA's budget. Mr. Peterson noted that Millcreek's population is much higher than other municipalities. Mr. Bock asked if bus routes to the Millcreek Mall will be reduced, to which Mr. Peterson replied no. Mr. Morgan asked if EMTA has reached out to other municipalities to request funding, and if so, how much did they request? Mr. Peterson responded that PennDOT has asked for the rate increases. He added that the Embrace Millcreek Comprehensive Plan states that EMTA plays a vital role in connecting jobs and services within the community and the City of Erie, and stated that EMTA wants a good relationship with Millcreek Township.

Kathy Fatica, Erie County Councilwoman, 4623 Southern Drive, stated that Erie County Council fought to expand EMTA routes throughout Erie County, and has concerns about Millcreek's decision to reduce funding. She disagreed with a suggestion that local businesses should be asked to help subsidize EMTA.

Andre Horton, Erie County Councilman and liaison to EMTA, stated he was not surprised at the Board's action to cut EMTA funding, but asked the Board to reconsider their decision. He opined that some bus routes may be lost, and that the negativity being received is not worth the \$18,000 cut and would like all involved to find some common ground. He stated that the County used to fund 60% of EMTA, but will no longer do so.

Kelly Baran, Voices for Independence employee, stated that she uses LIFT service for work and recreational purposes. She feels there has been some miscommunication and misunderstanding regarding the impact a funding reduction could have, and noted that anyone could have a temporary or permanent disability and need bus service. She asked the Board to reconsider their decision.

Liz Allen, Erie City Councilwoman, 407 Lincoln Avenue, stated that EMTA is the "greenway to travel," as more and more people are becoming concerned with the environment. She also noted that many people spend a lot of time and money in Millcreek, and urged the Board to reconsider their decision. Ms. Allen invited the Board to ride the bus with her to learn about the people who ride the bus, and Mr. Morgan accepted her offer.

Carl Anderson, Erie County Councilman, 3830 Parade Boulevard, apologized if the Board lacked information regarding the Census program, and would like to revisit that issue, especially because there is a matching ECGRA grant opportunity for this program, and he does not want the county to lose any federal funding if someone is not counted in the Census. Regarding the EMTA, Mr. Anderson asked the Board to look at the larger picture and to collaborate to fight proposed changes in Harrisburg regarding public transportation. He asked the Board to reconsider their funding decision.

David Tome, 956 W. Second Street, Voices for Independence Board Member, stated he has used the LIFT for many years and it is extremely necessary for people with disabilities, whether temporarily or permanently disabled. He asked the Board to reconsider their EMTA funding decision.

Amy Cichocki, Voices for Independence Resident and Transportation Liaison, asked the Board to please reconsider their EMTA funding decision. She relayed that most of the residents she works with depend on EMTA services for transportation to work and medical appointments and value their independence, and that many are extremely upset about the prospect of losing LIFT service. She invited the Board to spend a day with her and Mr. Groh accepted her offer.

Bob Bock, 4632 Darcy Drive, Voices for Independence Board Vice President, stated that the mission of VFI is to help disabled people gain independence and mobility within the community, and he encouraged the Board to gain a better knowledge of the needs of disabled community and to reconsider their funding decision.

Jodi Schersten, 1833 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, noted that the disabled community includes the aging community who spends money in Millcreek, and asked the Board to please reconsider their decision.

Heidi Dukich, 1547 W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, reiterated the importance of LIFT and bus service, which impacts the disabled, the aging and younger people without cars. She asked the Board to please reconsider their funding decision.

Chris Gerhart, EMTA Director, 540 Mohawk Drive, opined that there are many misconceptions regarding the EMTA, but stated that with less funds, services will be cut. He noted that in other areas of the state, communities are contributing more to their public transportation services.

Dennis McAndrew, Millcreek Resident, opined that Millcreek Township has been paying more than its fair share of funding for EMTA for years. He emphasized that Millcreek does not want to limit services, but rather the Township wants other municipalities to pay their fair share.

Valerie Perkins, Voices for Independence employee, asked what the next step will be. Mr. Morgan replied that the Board has asked EMTA to demonstrate that it is making equitable funding requests to other municipalities, but said that other townships say they have not been asked. Mr. Morgan said he would be open to increasing Millcreek's contribution if EMTA opens the dialogue. He reported that he previously served on LIFT's Council for 10 years, and emphasized that the Supervisors have no intention to take any action that would harm the disabled community.

Mr. Groh stated that when the Board voted on the EMTA funding issue in April, he agreed with the formula, but has since changed his mind, stating that the Township has moral and ethical obligations to its community. He is hoping to revisit the issue and asked EMTA to please contact the Board to discuss collaborating in the matter.

Mr. Bock stated that the Board wants to be a good steward of the Township's money, and would like to know why the Township is being asked for \$20,000 without ever receiving an appropriate explanation. Mr. Morgan echoed Mr. Bock's comments.

With no further business to come before the Board or any more citizens to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Bock to adjourn the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Sheryl A. Williams  
Township Secretary

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Approved: May 28, 2019

John H. Groh \_\_\_\_\_

James S. Bock \_\_\_\_\_

John E. Morgan \_\_\_\_\_